

**Subject:** Councilmember Cedillo's E-Newsletter 3.7.14

**From:** "Gilbert Cedillo" <Gilbert.Cedillo@lacity.org>

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**To:** "mistyli@aol.com" <mistyli@aol.com>



## GREETING FROM COUNCILMEMBER GIL CEDILLO

Friends,

This week I was in Mexico with LA Mayor Eric Garcetti on his first international trade mission to Mexico. We met influential business representatives and the President of Mexico himself, Enrique Peña Nieto. Meanwhile back at the office, Team Cedillo was busy meeting your needs to improve our community. City Council passed a resolution to regulate e-cigarettes and in PLUM the City Planning Department made presentations on the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles and Mobility Plan 2035. We attended a CERT training in the northeast and helped re-open a senior center that was shut down due to a small fire. We launched a 50/50 Big Belly program, which will add more solar-powered trashcans in your neighborhoods. We introduce you to Team Cedillo's Senior Planner, Gerald Gubatan, and say goodbye to a Mt. Washington hero, Frank Hernandez.

We will see you this weekend at one of the many community events taking place. Our District Office will be participating in the NELA Art Walk. Stop in, say hello, and admire the art Avenue 50 Studios was so generous to loan us.

Don't forget to 'spring forward' this Saturday night.

Gilbert A. Cedillo  
Councilmember, District 1

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### E-Cigarettes To Be Regulated



(Photo Credit: Yahoo)

There was a spirited discussion in Council on Wednesday regarding e-cigarettes. A substitute motion was introduced that would have allowed e-cigarettes inside bars and clubs, but fell short by two votes. The Council voted unanimously to support a motion that would adopt two of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's three policy recommendations to address the prevalence of e-cigarettes in the County:

- (1) Amend local smoke-free policies to include e-cigarettes use in the definition of smoking.
- (2) Amend existing tobacco retailer licenses by including e-cigarettes in the definition of "tobacco product."
- (3) Impose higher taxes to discourage e-cigarette purchase among minors.

The City adopted the first and second policy recommendations contained in the County report. The City Attorney believes that the City does not have the authority to tax cigarettes or e-cigarettes as a tobacco product.

Read the report [here](#).

**Mobility, Health and Wellness, and Livable Communities in L.A.**



(Photo Credit: Yahoo)

This week the PLUM committee heard a few presentations. The Los Angeles Department of City Planning is hosting seven community planning forums to share information on three citywide initiatives that will help shape the future vision for the city. The three citywide initiatives are:

**Mobility Plan 2035:** the city's transportation plan that lays the policy foundation to create safe streets that accommodate all modes and users.

**Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles:** a new public health initiative to create communities where the healthiest choice is the easiest choice, so that all residents have the opportunity to thrive.

**re:code LA:** a comprehensive update of the City's 1946 Zoning Code in order to create livable communities, encourage sustainable development, and foster economic vitality.

The community forums will give you an opportunity to learn about these initiatives and offer your comments and feedback. Draft plans for the Mobility Plan and the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles are available on the project websites, and the re:code LA's draft Zoning Evaluation Report will be released on March 7 on its website.

You're invited to the forum to be held Downtown. Take the Gold Line or Red Line to Metro's Headquarters at Union Station:

**Wednesday, March 19, 2014**

**5pm-8pm**

**Metro Headquarters (near Patsaouras Plaza)**

**One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA.90012**

Community participation will be key to ensure we develop a roadmap to create a healthy, sustainable, and economically vibrant Los Angeles.

## Water Wheel on LA River Moves Forward



(Photo Credit: Metabolic Studios)

This week, the LA City Council approved the recommendation by the Public Works Board to adopt the CEQA Initial Study/Mitigation Negative Declaration for the “Water Wheel Project”. This is a privately funded project that will not impact the General Fund.

The Project applicant, Metabolic Studio, desires to create a project that reintegrates the City with the Los Angeles River, its historic source of water. Under the proposed project, funded by the applicant, a water wheel would be constructed near the former site of the original water wheel constructed in the 1850's to lift water from the river to the Zanja Madre (Mother Ditch), the original aqueduct that brought water to the Pueblo de Los Angeles from the River.

Read the Public Works recommendation click [here](#).

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## FIELD UPDATE

### Are you prepared for an Earthquake?



(Photo Credit: Martha Benedict)

A new CERT class of eager students started on Thursday from the Arroyo Seco area of CD1 to prepare for an earthquake or major disaster in just seven weeks. CD1, LAFD and the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council joined forces to prepare constituents to help their neighbors and the community in time of need.

CERT members learn about important life-safety support techniques. The training includes: learning to suppress small fires, basic first aid, including ABC treatment and treatment of shock. Also included is learning evacuation tactics and how to collaborate with city agencies to support neighborhood exits, search tactics and communicating effectively including the use of radios.

A key factor for CERT members is the ability to spontaneously organize and activate themselves in the event of a major disaster. CERT members have a responsibility for themselves, their family and finally the community.

Roy Payan and Moira Gomez are leading members of the CERT family and co-chair the Public Safety committee. In partnership with CD1's Sylvia Robledo and LAFD, the goal is to continue to organize these members into teams in Mt. Washington and Sycamore Grove. Roy Payan already has an effective team in place in Montecito Heights. Councilmember Cedillo's priority is to provide public safety to the community and understands CERT teams are a valuable asset to the district.

## **St. Banabas Adult Healthcare Center Re-Opens**



(Photo Credit: Kris Ortega)

Thursday, Councilmember Cedillo along with Rigo Saborio, President and CEO of St. Barnabas Senior Center, celebrated the re-opening of their Adult Day Healthcare Center. The center was shut down after a small contained fire disrupted services for nearly a year. The Center has been operating in a temporary location in the meantime. The re-opening of the Center will allow St. Barnabas to again provide medical, therapeutic, rehabilitation and services for adults with chronic medical conditions or dementia. The Center is specially designed to allow participants to remain at home and continue to live more independently.

The Councilmember commended St. Barnabas for their work with seniors and committed to continuing his advocacy for senior services. While in the state legislature, Councilmember Cedillo wrote legislation against elder abuse in all facilities that care for seniors. While on the Budget Committee on Health, he consistently advocated to expand access and health benefits to seniors and ensured that all Filipino WWII veterans receive their full benefits if they decided to move to the Philippines. St Barnabas Adult Day Healthcare Center is located at 672 S. Carondelet Street in Los Angeles, CA 90057.

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## NEWS UPDATE

### Big Belly Program Launch



(Photo Credit: Fredy Ceja)

We've reported the successes of our 'Keep It Clean' campaign in previous newsletters. Since the program's inception, we have picked up nearly 100 tons of trash and cleaned up 286 alleys in CD1. Today we are happy to announce the launch of our Big Belly 50%-50% Program.

Councilman Cedillo continues to stay committed to cleaning up your streets. He invites you to help him 'Keep It Clean' by increasing the amount of trashcans available in our communities. The office is offering partnership opportunities for organizations that are interested in having a solar powered compactor placed in a designated areas in CD1.

The way we collect trash can help maintain our streets clean. The City of Los Angeles is investing funds to replace basket like trash cans. In the spirit of public engagement and community partnership, this office is offering grant opportunities to purchase additional trash cans to promote the 'Keep It Clean' Campaign in District One of Los Angeles.

**Why Solar Panel Trash Receptacles?**

- Provides a solution to a common problem
- Improves existing operations & enhances efficiency
- Demonstrates commitment to cleanliness/sustainability
- Enhance overall well-being of the local area
- Increased capacity of more than 150 gallons means no overflows and collections can happen less frequently

One solar trash compactor is able to hold the equivalent of 5 regular trashcans. This program symbolizes an opportunity to keep our streets clean, and contribute to the economic vitality of the area. Overflowing trash can deter foot traffic and has unintended consequences. Partnering with us can show you care about where you live, work and spend your leisure.

**Technology**

Each trash can is equipped with a chip that delivers real-time data to the city's waste management division, showing when the units are full and need to be picked up.

**Maintenance**

The Council Office will work with your organization to find a partner to help maintain trash collection.

**Messaging Opportunities**

The purchase of one trash can comes with an opportunity to promote your organization on side panels. In the spirit of the 50/50 program the sponsoring organization will have access to [2] panels on a single unit and [3] panels on a double unit. \* Additional Cost

**Associated Costs**

Single unit big belly is \$2,995 + freight/tax  
[50/50 Program cost: \$1,497.50 + freight/tax]

Double unit is \$4,240 + freight/tax  
[50/50 Program cost: \$2,120 + freight/tax]

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Message wrap for the single \$436 (4 panels)  
[50/50 Program cost: \$218]

Message wrap for the double \$689 (6 panels)  
[50/50 Program cost: \$344.50]

Help Councilman Cedillo send the message of "Keep It Clean" to all CD1 residents. For more information please contact Conrado Terrazas at (323) 550-1583 or [conrado.terrazas@lacity.org](mailto:conrado.terrazas@lacity.org).

## Getting to Know Team Cedillo: Gerald Gubatan

**Name:** Gerald G. Gubatan

**What do you do for CD1?**

I am CD1's Senior Planning Deputy focused on advancing Council Member Cedillo's policy and project-based priorities in the areas of city planning, economic development, housing and infrastructure improvements.

**Where were you born and raised?**

I'm a native Angeleno - born in East Hollywood and raised in L.A.'s Historic Filipinotown. I'm a proud graduate of Virgil Junior High School and Belmont High School.

**How'd you get your start in Public Service?**

I began as a junior planner with the L. A. City Planning Department and have worked as a planner with various public agencies, most recently with the now-defunct Community Redevelopment Agency of LA. I've also served on the legislative and planning staffs of elected leaders in Sacramento and City Hall, including previous CD1 Council Members. I am excited to return to a Council District I know well and reconnect with many longtime community stakeholders.

**Best kept secret in CD1?**

In 1932, Mexican revolutionary artist David Alfaro Siqueiros, the comrade of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, came to L.A. to teach a class at the former Chouinard Art Institute near MacArthur Park where he painted a mural on a school wall titled "Street Meeting" as well as "América Tropical" on Olvera Street. Both were whitewashed in the anti-Communist fervor of the 1930s. CD1 is so rich with significant historic-cultural assets waiting to be rediscovered.

**What is your favorite P.E.A.C.E. issue and why?**

John F Kennedy first said "A rising tide will lift all boats". Revitalizing the economy of CD1 - Economic Development - is critical but prosperity must also be reinvested in our neighborhoods if we are to build a just polyethnic City.

**If you could solve one major issue in CD1 what would it be?**

Chronic homelessness is pervasive and only worsening; the endemic impacts not only CD1, but many other parts of the City and seems intractable but does not discriminate based on age, race, gender. Stereotypes are broken: I've seen a young apparently mentally ill Latina or a middle-age monolingual Korean woman on the streets in CD1.

Significant multi-agency efforts have been implemented, and much more intensive work needs to be done. President Obama has spoken about growing income inequality, and the "Have Nots" occupy the lowest rung of society.

**What do people not know about you?**

I played the cello in my junior and senior high school orchestras, and had a part in the musical, "Godspell," as a college freshman. I'm also an amateur urban gardener: I've completely eliminated my front lawn to make way for drought tolerant native landscaping with a drip irrigation system.

**NELA Art Walk**



(Photo Credit: NELA Art Walk)

Tomorrow CD1 is excited to open our doors and be part of the North East LA Art Walk. The NELA Art Walk is hosted every second Saturday of the month throughout different parts of the Northeast. Our first collection, "Visual Poetry", has been curated by Avenue 50 Studios. We will have quarterly installations featuring artists and galleries from CD1. Use #lacd1 if you plan on stopping in!

See you there!

### **A Message from LADWP About Billing Problems**



(Photo Credit: LADWP)

As you probably know, we are experiencing significant operational problems implementing our new customer billing system. We sincerely apologize to you and to our customers who have been directly affected by these problems.

We did not adequately prepare for the extent of the problems we experienced and we made matters worse by not making certain that when those affected had problems, we were able to take their calls and emails and respond in a timely manner. Many have waited on hold for an excessively long time, some even as long as two hours. This is completely unacceptable.

We have more to do to fix these problems. In the meantime, we are committed to keeping you and our affected customers better informed about the problems and what we are doing to fix them. In addressing these shortcomings we want to let you know what we are doing, the progress we are making and our commitment to keep you informed.

We have set up a new webpage to provide continuous information about our billing and customer service challenges. You can find it at [www.ladwp.com/BillingInfo](http://www.ladwp.com/BillingInfo).

Please register at this site if you would like to get regular updates through email. If you use social media, you can also follow us on Twitter @LADWP or visit our Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Facebook page.

If you believe your bill does not properly reflect your use, please contact us -- preferably by using our online contact form at [www.ladwp.com/ContactUs](http://www.ladwp.com/ContactUs), or call 1-800-DIAL-DWP.

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## IN MEMORIAM

### Frank Hernandez

Frank Hernandez was a WW2 veteran with a purple heart passed away at 89 years old. He was part of the Normandy invasion and spent a week in a foxhole upon coming ashore. He was wounded and received the Purple Heart Medal of Honor. After returning home from the war he purchased a home in Boyle Heights for his family and worked as an aircraft and helicopter assembler until retirement. He purchased his home in Mt Washington 40 years ago and loved spending time watching the canyon and visiting local restaurants and stores. When he felt he was too old to drive he began to walk up and down the steep hill to his home visiting and saying hello to all his neighbors. His niece tried to get him meals on wheels which he promptly turned away saying that was for people in need – not him. Frank Hernandez was a fiercely independent man who fought for his country, took care of his family and his community. He was a true warrior in every sense of the word.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **Inaugural Walking Tour Extravaganza for the The Living Museum: Sycamore Grove**

Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sycamore Grove Park

4702 N. Figueroa

Los Angeles, CA 90042

<http://livingmuseumla.blogspot.com>



**Arroyo Seco NC Candidate Meeting**

Saturday, March 8th, 2014

11:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Ramona Hall Auditorium

4850 N. Figueroa Street

Los Angeles, CA 90065



**NELA Art Walk at CD1 District Office**

Saturday, March 8th, 2014

7:00 PM -10:00 PM

5577 North Figueroa Street

Los Angeles, CA 90042



**Feria Financiera**

Domingo, 9 de Marzo

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

USC



**Los Angeles Fire Department**

**Battle of the Badges Blood Drive**

Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Frank Hotchkin Memorial Training Center

1700 Stadium Way

Los Angeles, CA 90012

(213)893-9838



**State Historic Park Update Meeting**

Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Goodwill Industries  
342 N. San Fernando Road  
Los Angeles, CA 90031



**Department of City Planning  
Community Planning Forums**

Wednesday, March 19th, 2014  
Metro Headquarters  
One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
[La2b.org](http://La2b.org)  
[Recode.la](http://Recode.la)  
[Healthyplan.la](http://Healthyplan.la)



**Metabolic Studios Conversation 62:  
Bending the River Back Into the City**

Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Lincoln Heights Senior Center

2323 Workman Street

Los Angeles, CA 90031



**Patton Street Park & Garden Groundbreaking**

Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

317 Patton Street

Los Angeles, CA 90026



**Neighborhood Tree Giveaway**

Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Glassell Park Community Center

3750 Verdugo Road

Los Angeles, CA 90065



**Free Magic Show**

Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

2:00 PM

Lincoln Heights Branch

Los Angeles Public Library

2530 Workman Street, 90031

(323)226-1692



**LA City Attorney FREE Dispute Resolution Program**

March 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2014

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

(213) 485-8324

[meidate@lacity.org](mailto:meidate@lacity.org)



**Free Tax Preparation**

El Centro Del Pueblo Family Source Center

1824 Sunset Blvd. (between Sunset & Lemoyne)

Los Angeles, CA90026

(213) 483-6335 ext. 111



**Free Artmaking Workshops**

Cypress Park Family Source Center  
Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> – April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM  
929 Cypress Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90065



**LACC Art Exhibit**

February 8<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014  
Avenue 50 Studio Gallery  
131 North Avenue 50  
Highland Park, CA 90042

This message was sent to mistyli@aol.com by:

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